(a) the total number of airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) how many airports, out of these, are proposed to be upgraded upto International standard and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to start flights to South India from Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are eight (8) airports in Madhya Pradesh, which belong to Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(b) Presently, AAI is upgrading three (3) airports namely Indore, Bhopal and Khajuraho airports to meet the international standards. Various upgradation works like extension of runway, construction of new expandable modular integrated terminal building and construction of new apron at these airports have been taken up by AAI.

(c) Domestic Airlines Operators are free to operate anywhere in India including airports in Madhya Pradesh depending upon commercial viability, traffic potential and available infrastructure at such airports.

Upgradation of safety regulations

1812. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that safety regulations of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) do not conform to international standards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what measures Government has taken or proposes to take to upgrade the safety regulations upto international standard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Safety regulations in India are primarily based on Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) issued by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and are regularly amended by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) whenever new SARPs are introduced. In addition, DGCA from time to time reviews and amends its regulations as per international standards and aviation requirements of the country.

Protocol arrangements at airports

1813. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: